

Course Description

Can you read a person like a book? Does nonverbal communication account for 93% of the meaning in conversation? While we explore the key issues, theories, and research findings in the field of nonverbal communication, we will refute some popular myths and pose many more questions.

The study of nonverbal communication is much broader than the codes people typically refer to as “body language.” We will also investigate appearance, the environment, perceptions of time and the application of nonverbal theories to deception, persuasion and interpersonal interactions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Define and recognize examples of the codes of nonverbal communication
- Apply nonverbal concepts and theories to “real world” situations
- Describe and evaluate nonverbal research and theories
- Propose an original research study to address a specific question within the arena of nonverbal communication

To achieve our goals, we will use a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, film clips, exercises, exams, and research assignments.

For questions about the class, please email Professor Jillian Pierson at jilliank@usc.edu.

